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WOMEN'S INTERESTS

Velvet Touches Popular.

Nine frocks out of ten, whether intended for morning, afternoon or evening wear, show at least a touch of velvet, and the result is usually a happy one. As for whole gowns and costumes of velvet, and coats of velvet, they are, it seems, to be legion.

The manufacturers have certainly provided the wherewithal, for, though last winter's velvets were lovely, those of this season surpass them in quality and in variety. The cottonback chiffon velvets are shown in beautiful colorings, but it is, of course, in the all-silk velvets that triumphs have been attained.

One may have them in plain color, and so soft, light, and supple that they make the old-time velvet seem a clumsy stuff.

Ribbed silk velvet or silk corduroy is also offered in all the new colorings, and is considered very chic for street costumes.

Pompadour velvets, floral panne and short-haired plush, upon which a design appears to be printed or painted, are among the novelties, as are beautifully striped velvet and satin materials.

Even newer are exquisite mouseline silks, embossed with velvet flowers in the same tone or a lighter or darker shade of the same tone, giving what is called a cameo effect, and similar materials show velvet flowers in natural hues upon contrasting grounds.

Variation of Corset Skirt.



For a young girl this new skirt is shirred into the waist, with a wide box plait paneling the front.

High Coiffures Popular.

The prophecy of last season that the low coiffure was to carry all before it is unfulfilled and the high coiffure is quite as modish as the low coiffure—rather more so, indeed. The extreme pompadour, however, rolled over a huge rat and falling heavily over the forehead almost to the eyebrows, has entirely gone out and the more modest arrangement with a slight suggestion of a part is popular. The hair ornaments are varied and pretty. Our cut suggests a half wreath of tiny pink roses which encircle the flat top of hair on top of head and a long pink aigrette fastened to left side.

Renovating Hints.

On many of the dresses young girls are wearing a bit of gold and silver in the form of braid and buttons. This tarnishes almost imperceptibly, dulling the dress by the utter absence of the sparkle you depended upon to liven its otherwise rather somber effect. Fresh gold braid is trying to a half-worn dress, but gay little braids come which work wonders in the way of renovating. Narrow red soutache may be used in place of gilt on those attractive little dresses of dark, rich plaids; or the narrow flat silk braids, in tiny, gay French plaids, brighten up a plain color.

Big Muffs and Fur Collars.

The prevalence of elbow sleeves, which has brought so much grit to the mills of the gloves, has also benefited the furriers extensively and has changed the fashion in muffs.

Large muffs were in vogue last winter, but they are small when compared with the gigantic models that are being sold this season. The aim of the smart furrier is to enable his customer to thrust not only her hands but the whole forepart of her arms into the luxurious depths of the muff.

It is not "smart" to ask for a boa crissole now when something warm and ornamental is required for the throat, the new title of the fur tippet is cravat, which is made in several forms. One of them is that of a dog collar that clasps the neck snugly and terminates in front in cravat ends, centered by bars of velvet and tiny

gold studs. Another type is a turn-over collar of chinchilla that falls upon a shoulder pelerine of sable or some other expensive fur, and lace is sometimes permitted to mingle with the fur to the end that a very becoming cravat may be accomplished.—London Daily Mail.

Boudoir Confidences

Foulard petticoats are serviceable and pretty.

Muffs are of immense size, but feathery weight.

Brussels net with coin spots is liked for evening frocks.

Albatross blouses with insertions of Irish lace are lovely.

Small check velvets are not so dressy as the plain colors.

Many of the new muffs and stoles are simply huge bunches of tails.

Buttons of cut jet are effectively used on black lace and velvet gowns.

Feathery green ferns are novel decorations appearing on the smartest hats.

The lovely new embroidered silk Herre lace bids fair to take precedence over all others.

Veils of champagne-colored chiffon, hand-painted with roses, violets or orchids, catch attention.

Ermine and Mink.

Ermine and mink form a charming combination. In a basque jacket of carefully matched mink skins, ermine faces the long revers and collar which finish the loose front seams, while a narrow band of mink is applied at the very edge. A very wide band of mink with rounding ends shapes the cuff of the rather scant sleeve, and is held together by a gilt filigree button. The accompanying muff is a small round affair, completely hidden beneath whole mink skins.

Knife Pleating.

With the revival of the soft, lustrous silks, pompadour crepes de chine, old laces and old jewelry of other days come the picot edge ribbons and the Richelieu pleatings, these in all the staple colors and the shades of the new color card. In fact, ribbons of every variety, plain and printed, narrow and wide, are used on dressy costumes for winter wear. Chiffons, soft messaline taffetas and like weaves lend themselves beautifully to ribbon decorations in the way of skirt bandings, girdles, bouillones and especially these new old pleatings.

To Curl Ostrich Plumes.

When an ostrich plume gets straight and stringy—in pursuance of their degrading tendencies—don't attempt to restore the curl by knife or scissors or any sharp edged instrument. These cut the fibers and leave your lap strewn with particles of the plume. Let the implement be smooth and blunt along the edges—an ivory paper knife is very good. The task is a little more tedious by this method, but the result is more satisfactory and the feather is not cut to pieces.

Costumes for Young Lady.

A lovely little voile for a girl of 16, was made of a shade of red, more like an Indian red than anything else, but lighter. Broad tucks set the front of the waist off in a sort of square, and just inside it wandered a graceful little vine, embroidered in silk, which matched the high red exactly. Above the embroidery, drawn work, done directly upon the voile, made a yoke; and the same drawnwork—just narrow lines of threads, caught together in the simplest possible patterns—ran all away around the full flounce of the skirt. That flounce, by the way, had two deep tucks in place of its hem, and was set on to the upper part of the skirt under another tuck. It was a pretty echo of the broad tucks on the blouse.

The sleeves were draped, and long, pointed cuffs finished them. Being made over white silk, every bit of the work was displayed.



HINTS TO HOUSEWIVES

Clean the keys of a piano with a cloth moistened with alcohol.

Salad dressing should not be mixed with salad until just before serving.

Carrots and turnips will keep for weeks, if not months, if placed in layers in a box of sand.

Keep macaroni in an airtight receptacle and plunge into boiling salt water before cooking.

Add borax to the water in which the dish towels are washed and it will aid in making them white and soft.

Clothesline and pegs will keep in good condition much longer if they are

boiled for ten minutes before using.

To stuff dates, remove the stones and fill the dates with almonds or peanuts; then close the fruit and roll in sugar.

Clean copper kettles with lemon dipped in salt and rinse thoroughly with clear water, polishing with a soft cloth.

Cleaning Soiled White Felt Hats.

White felt hats have such a distressing way of showing soil that it is a good plan to keep the right sort of cleaning materials about. Dry cleaning (or almost dry) is always best; there's no telling, with liquids, how far the soil may be spread, perhaps making an ugly little ring around the original spot.

French chalk, carefully rubbed into the felt, will often do the trick; but a rather stiff paste made of powdered magnesia and water is a very good cleanser, and really is not to be classed under the head of anything but a dry cleanser—there is so little water used. Let it dry on, and then brush off very carefully.

There's a wonderful little block of some white stuff—it looks like a block of magnesia—that works like magic. All you do is to rub on and brush off, and the work is done.

Visiting Gown.



Blue velvet, with corselet skirt and bolero trimmed with Persian embroidery, and lace chinchilla toque.

The Correct Slope.

The Directoire robes need to be cunningly fashioned with a tight foundation, to have the loose folds shape in to the figure and at the waistline and reveal the swell of the hip. There is very little difference between the Directoire and Empire robes, save in the detail. The Directoire has the swathing bands that come below the bust and draw the robe in to the figure, and the sleeves are of elbow length, whereas the so-called Empire has shorter sleeves, and the bands of the bodice come above or across the top of the bust, and do not draw the folds beneath into the form.

The princess robe, as distinguished from these, is tight-fitting, but in all there is the unbroken line from the bust to the floor. The terms empire princess and princess are sufficient for practical purposes to differentiate them.

New Muffs.

The fad for half-length jacket sleeves has given rise to a decidedly novel shape in muffs intended to keep not only the hands warm, but the lower part of the arms as well. These are distinctly a novelty, and practical, for they really fit the shape of the arms when hands are clasped.

Life other muffs of the season these are flat, but they are cut with a seam in the middle and so joined that the two parts meet at an angle. This permits of the hands being thrust deep into them without bending the muffs and the length of the fur is such that it reaches to the elbows or to the beginning of the sleeves. This, of course, keeps the arms quite warm.

Without exception these are trimmed with a fringe of tails or pendants, for the shape is thin in order not to make the arms look large and a fringe is needed to make the proportion good.

New Millinery Model.

One of the latest models in the millinery world is simple in construction, but stunning in appearance. It is black French beaver, the wide brim rolled gracefully on each side and the crown encircled with gold cloth. Two pale blue tips prettily arranged on left side are the only other decorations.

A Dinner Novelty.

A French favor for luncheons or dinners is novel. It is a tiny earthen flower pot, hardly bigger than a liqueur glass, in which a four-leaf clover is growing. This is better than a pressed leaf in a glass locket, or any other artificial device.

OLDEST ORGAN IN EXISTENCE.

Winchester, N. H., Has Ancient Musical Instrument.

The oldest pipe organ in existence in this country, and the third one to make its appearance in America, is located in Winchester, N. H.

The instrument was built by Henry Pratt, a native of Winchester, who, like his father, was a carpenter by trade.

It chanced that in the year 1788, at 19 years of age, he went with his father to assist in building a church in Hudson, N. Y. While there he obtained a draft of an organ in that locality, which had been brought over from England.

This draft Pratt took home with him and showed it to one of the most prominent of Winchester's citizens, Capt. Smith. The captain at once evinced intense interest, and made the following proposition to Pratt: "If you will build the organ, I will give you a bushel of rye per day while you are building it, and if you succeed in making an acceptable instrument, I will pay you \$300 additional."

Pratt began work immediately, and one year later, in the summer of 1789, he finished the organ. After due consideration it was pronounced a success, and was accepted and paid for by Capt. Smith, who at once presented it to the citizens of Winchester.

It was first used by the Congregational society, the only denomination in town holding service at that time.

For about sixty years it was in constant use by either the Congregationalists or the Universalists.

The organ has five stops, namely, principal, stop diapason, open diapason, 12th and 15th. The 12th and 15th have metal pipes made from the lead taken from tea chests. All the other pipes are constructed of old growth pine, of which there used to be large quantities in the region of Winchester.

The keys were formerly of mahogany, with a narrow strip of ivory running through the top of the sharps. In the center of the natural keys were pieces of ivory about half an inch



square. These were replaced by more modern keys when the organ was repaired.

There was a foot pedal to blow it with.

Greedy Seagulls.

A Nanaimo fisherman had a unique experience with a flock of seagulls several evenings ago. He reached Nanaimo in an open boat containing two tons of herring.

While uptown the seagulls took possession of the boat. On his return all but sixty flew away. This number had so gorged themselves with herring that they could not fly, but hopped about in a state of helplessness. The fisherman finally climbed into the boat and lifted them overboard. They were able to swim with an effort, and most of them went ashore to recover from the efforts of their feast.—Tacoma Ledger.

Twins Strangely United.

Two Hindu girl twins are being exhibited in Poona who are joined at the back, with their faces in opposite directions. They have separate legs and feet, and when one goes forward the other is dragged behind.

Medieval Swing.



In the middle ages swings were hung by an ingenious pulley device. The rope was passed over a grooved wheel that was fastened to the ceiling by a bracket. The one who was swinging was not only pushed from behind by one of his fellows but was also helped from the front by striking with his foot the outstretched foot of another comrade. This sport was a favorite pastime of pages.

GUEST MADE TO TAKE TRAIN.

Maine Hotelkeeper Was in No Humor for Fooling.

George Moses, proprietor of the old tavern at Bucksport, Me., rarely allowed the desires of his guests to interfere with his general plans for running his hotel.

Many years ago a relative of mine spending the night at the tavern, asked Moses to see that he was called in time to take the early train out of Bucksport. Moses looked sternly at him and said: "So you want to be called at 4 o'clock, do you? Well, where do you think you be—in New York? I want you to understand, young man, that I am the bellboy, the porter, the head waiter and the clerk



Dragged Him Out of Bed.

In this tavern, and I don't sit up all night to wake people up."

A long argument ensued, and finally Moses agreed that the early call should be put through, and my uncle retired without any compunctions of conscience for causing so much trouble.

In the morning, when called, he decided, as there was a blinding snow storm, to wait for the afternoon snow, so replied to Moses' gruff "Time to get up" by saying: "I guess I won't take that train."

Like a whirlwind Moses dashed into the room, dragged the shivering form out of bed on to the icy floor, and with a wrathful "By gum, you will take that train," he stood by and watched the hurried dressing to see there was no backsliding, and my uncle took the train.—Boston Herald.

Preacher a Lamplighter.

By an agreement with the village authorities of Southold, Long Island, to light and extinguish the street lamps each night for \$25 a month, Rev. James Murray, pastor of the Southold Universalist church, has brought upon him the criticism of many of his congregation.

Southold's populace retires very early. All street lamps must be extinguished promptly at 11 o'clock.

Rev. Mr. Murray's salary of \$700 a year will be increased by \$300 through his work on the street lamps. He proposes to use the time spent on the street twice each evening in thinking out his sermons.—New York Tribune.

Shergold's Safety Bicycle.



The Shergold safety bicycle was constructed in the eighteen-seventies. To operate its brake the rider had to twist its handlebars around. The thickness of its chain is also noteworthy.

Rat Hunts in Favor in England.

Rat catching as a pastime is fast bounding into popularity. It is claimed by the many fresh devotees of this peculiar hobby that it provides excitement and sport, while as its aim is the extinction of vermin its usefulness is beyond question.

Mr. H. F. Willoughby Greenhill, a stock broker, and a party of friends, with the assistance of four dogs, bagged ninety-two rats on Saturday, and nearly as many during the preceding week. The sport is general all over the county of Surrey, and the services of those who follow the pastime are in requisition in all rat infested quarters.—London Express.

The Limit in Exclusive Affairs.

During a whooping cough epidemic at Wellington, Mo., one little girl who had planned to give a birthday party found herself unable to do so because of danger of spreading the disease from which she was just recovering. Finally, she decided to confine her guests to those who had already had the disease. It was an ultra-exclusive affair which excited no envy.

LEFT TO FORTUNE'S DECISION.

California Girl Let Coin Decide Which Man She Would Marry.

Two suitors, Roland Storrs, an English churchman, and Howard Jones, a theatrical manager, sought the hand of Miss Alberta Jewett Dabney of Monrovia, Calif. She has just become Mrs. Storrs, but not without having gone through a period of perplexity.

The story comes from the lips of Miss Storrs' sister, Miss May Cutter.

"She really didn't know which to marry," said Mrs. Cutter, "and so a little more than a week ago she told me she was going to leave the question of the decision to a tossed coin."

"I asked her if she cared more for one than the other, and she said yes, but that she thought her family would be better pleased should she marry the one whom she herself did not prefer."

"Heads for Roland; tails for Howard," was what Miss Dabney said when she sent the coin to the ceiling.

Both sisters watched its upward flight, the younger one breathlessly, and the Cupid guarded quarter came Roland.

"The minute we saw which side of the quarter came up," continued Mrs. Cutter, "I gave an order for the wedding announcements, and we began making preparations for the event."

"I do not know even yet whether the decree of chance was on the side of love or my sister's promptings to filial duty, as she expressed it."

"But I do know that on the night of the wedding she looked very happy and very pretty."—New York World.

Curious Hairdressing.

That there is no accounting for fashion in hairdress is, of course, a platitude. The fashion among the Cingalese, of Ceylon, which is taken quite seriously in India, is illustrated herewith. The picture, which is a chance snapshot, illustrates the very



general custom. It comes as a surprise to see a man with so serious and intelligent a face wearing such an outrageous headgear.

Big Eagle Comes to Town in Car.

In a struggle with an eagle which flew from an empty box car in the yards of the Southern railroad Jesse Wolf's clothing was torn in several places. After he had maimed the bird with a pistol shot he dispatched it with a blow in the head with a wagon spoke. Wolf will have the bird, which measures 5 feet 8 inches from tip to tip of wings, stuffed.

The bird is thought to have secreted itself in a box car while it was in eastern Kentucky and was unable to gain its freedom until the car was opened upon its arrival in this city.—Louisville Post.

The Largest Horse.

The largest horse I can find in the United States is Royal Prince, who was raised in Crawford county, Pa. He is a dapple gray, stands nearly seven feet high at the shoulder, weighs 2,800 pounds when fat, wears a No. 30 collar and a No. 9 shoe and is very finely proportioned.—Farm and Fireside.

Toy Spaniel in a Sweater.



The pampered pets of Society "doggy" ladies are wearing sweaters and kimonos to protect them from the cold while they are at dog shows. Several ladies, indeed, have their favorites clad thus even at home when the weather is cold. The quality and workmanship of these garments are in some cases extravagant in the extreme. They are trimmed and ornamented regardless of cost.—London Telegraph.